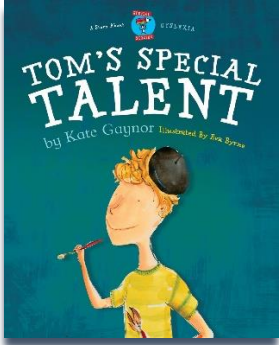
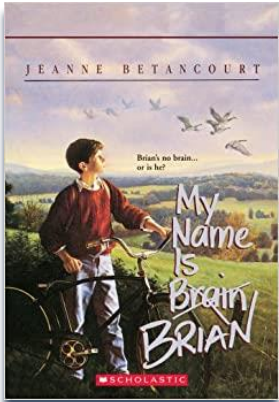


Annotated Bibliography: Learning Disabilities in Reading

	<p><b>Back to Front and Upside Down!</b> by Claire Alexander</p> <p>Alexander, C. (2012). <i>Back to front and upside down!</i> Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.</p> <p>It's the principal Mr. Slipper's birthday, and while his classmates are busy writing cards for Mr. Slipper, Stan is frustrated that his letters become all mixed up. He feels afraid to ask for help, but then receives good advice from a friend that nobody is good at EVERYTHING. Stan practices and practices until he gets his letters just right!</p> <p>Even though this book is about a character with dyslexia, it teaches children of all abilities the value of asking for help. Children learn that it takes courage to ask for help and doing so can often help those around them who struggle with the same issue. This book celebrates friendship and how important it is for us to reach out to each other. Also, this book teaches children that perseverance builds confidence: a good reminder that practice pays off! <i>Grades Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup></i></p>
	<p><b>Tom's Special Talent</b> by Kate Gaynor</p> <p>Gaynor, K. (2013). <i>Tom's special talent.</i> Special Stories Publishing.</p> <p>When Tom sees that his friends are good at writing and reading while he feels that he is not, he doubts whether he has any worthwhile talents. But at a school competition, he learns that is not true; he finds his OWN very special talent and how he can share it with others.</p> <p>A book about a character with dyslexia who at first focuses on his struggles, but when given an opportunity, learns to develop his strengths. What makes this book special is its universal messages about empowerment and seeing ability vs. disability. Using this book as a read aloud can bring about conversations of how everyone is unique in their talents and in their learning styles. Teachers can even encourage children to share their talents with the class. <i>Grades Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup></i></p>
	<p><b>My Name is Brain Brian</b> by Jeanne Betancourt</p> <p>Betancourt, J. (1995). <i>My name is brain brian.</i> Scholastic Paperbacks.</p> <p>Brian's family thinks he's lazy and his friends think he's a class clown; but he isn't trying to be that way on purpose. Entering sixth grade, Brian encounters a sympathetic new teacher who recognizes in him the characteristics of a student with dyslexia; after diagnostic tests, Brian receives encouragement in a support network both at home and at school.</p> <p>This upper elementary book can be a helpful way to learn about dyslexia because the author takes time to explain it throughout the book. Children who have learning disabilities in reading may feel a genuine connection</p>

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	<p>with Brian's characteristics and experiences. Also, because the author's descriptions of Brian's family dynamics are genuine and realistic, readers who have siblings with learning disabilities can develop a greater sense of empathy. <i>Grades: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup></i></p>
	<p><b>The Wild Book</b> by Margarita Engle</p> <p>Engle, M. (2014). <i>The wild book</i>. HMH Books for Young Readers.</p> <p>This is a story set in early twentieth century Cuba. Fefa struggles with words. According to the doctor, she has “word blindness” (dyslexia). She is also told that she will never read nor write. Fefa finds encouragement and support when her mother gifts her a blank book and tells her to think of it as a garden. Fefa begins to sprinkle words onto the pages of her garden, her “wild book”; it is these very words that empower her to save her family in a time of trial and uncertainty.</p> <p>Written in lyrical prose, this book has so much to offer! It speaks to children who live with learning disabilities and to aspiring poets as well. While fictional, its setting is a real one in Cuba's history, bringing a multicultural reading experience into the classroom. Finally, this book celebrates perseverance through struggle, very timely and universal traits that children of all abilities can aspire to. <i>Grades: 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup></i></p>
	<p><b>Maggot Moon</b> by Sally Gardner</p> <p>Gardner, S. (2014). <i>Maggot moon</i>. Candlewick.</p> <p>This novel fits the dystopian, alt-history genre that is popular these days; in this case, it is a picture of what a Nazi-dominated world could possibly look like had they won the second World War. An unlikely hero, Standish Treadwell, is a teenager who experiences a loss that forces him to question the familiar life he knows and eventually to choose exposing the ruthless regime of his homeland.</p> <p>Standish lives with dyslexia, and the book does an amazing job of giving readers a sense of his experience; it's told in first-person narrative in one hundred very short chapters, almost like free verse poetry. What make this book valuable is that even though Standish lives with the challenges of a learning disability, the decisions and choices he makes reveal his universal humanity, so that children of all abilities don't view him as the “other” but simply a teen they can root for. His story can be a jumping off point for classroom discussions about what it means to belong and about what it means to be a hero. <i>Grades: 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup></i></p>